

Remarks

A. Pending Claims

Claims 13-18, 21-24, 26-29, 31-35, and 37-38 are currently pending. Claims 1-12, 19, 20, 25, 30, and 36 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-38 have been amended for clarification and typographical errors.

B. Election

Applicant hereby elects the species in Group 2 without traverse. Claims 13-18, 21-24, 26-29, 31-35, and 37-38 read upon the elected species. Claims 1-12, 19, 20, 25, 30, and 36 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application at a later date capturing the subject matter recited in claims 1-12, 19, 20, 25, 30, and 36. Applicant reserves the right for consideration of claims to additional species written in dependent form upon allowance of a generic claim.

C. Information Disclosure Statements

The Office Action states: "The examiner notes that there are 9-10 IDS which contain hundreds of references to be considered. If applicant believes any of them to be of particular importance, a statement identifying those references should be submitted."

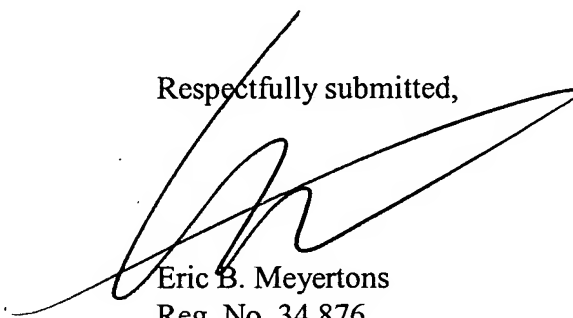
Applicant submits that all of the references submitted by Applicant should be considered in the examination of the current application. Applicant does consider the below-listed references to be relevant to the current application and identifiable for consideration by the Examiner. The references are: U.S. Patent No. 219,439 to Blend; U.S. Patent No. 3,941,377 to

Rodgers, Jr.
10/611,497

Lie; U.S. Patent No. 4,684,121 to Nestegard; U.S. Patent No. 5,242,343 to Miller; U.S. Patent No. 5,279,529 to Eschenbach; U.S. Patent No. 5,290,211 to Stearns; U.S. Patent No. 5,299,993 to Habing; U.S. Patent No. 5,690,589 to Rodgers, Jr.; and German Patent No. DE2919-494 to Kummerlin.

If any extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are inadvertently omitted, please appropriately charge those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5787-01302/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



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